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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Austria

SUBJECT Sighting of Soviet Guided Missile or Target
Drone

DATE (OF INFO.) 7 Aug 54

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1. At about 7:00 A. M. on 7 Aug 54 I was about five miles from the Aspern Airfield, northeast of Vienna. At my point of observation, terrain and trees obscured any possible view of the Aspern Airfield. As I remember there was little or no wind and there was a broken cloud layer at perhaps 1500 to 2000 meters altitude. I looked up and was startled to see a MIG 15 in a nearly vertical attitude coming through the cloud layer in a recovery from a loop or split-S maneuver. About 200 meters in trail from the MIG was a small winged missile of perhaps 80 per cent the length of the MIG. The two proceeded overhead toward the airport at a low altitude and what seemed a high airspeed in the neighborhood of 400 miles an hour. (650 Km/hr)
2. I estimate the length of a MIG at about 10 meters and the length of the missile at 7 or 8 meters. The wing span of the missile was perhaps three and one half meters with the wings well back from the nose of the missile. The leading edges of the wings were swept back between 40 and 60 degrees and the wings were highly tapered. The construction appeared to be of sheet metal painted a dark color. The missile had very small horizontal tail surfaces, the shape of which I do not remember. I do not remember being able to see a vertical tail surface. The fuselage of the missile tapered to a point at the tail and I can remember no evidence of a jet tailpipe or engine. I do not remember any unusual sound associated with the missile. The missile and MIG were moving so fast that there was a delay in their sound reaching me and the whole sighting was over so quickly that the details of the missile are not clear in my mind three months later.

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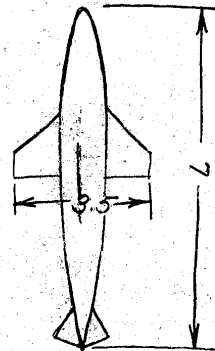
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Sketch of MIG & Missile Fly-By

Broken Clouds at 1,500 m.

200 m.

MIG

Approximate Plan View
of Missile

5 mi. to Aspern Airfield

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Observer

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3. Because of the high speed and the severity of the maneuver, [redacted] that the missile was remotely controlled from the MIG aircraft. [redacted] but the missile followed in trail in such a manner that it could have been connected by a thin cable to the MIG airplane. [redacted]

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4. Aspern Airfield is a small military installation at which there is little activity. There may be a small operational unit in training there [redacted]

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